

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Giving

2 Corinthians 8:9

R.V. Court

Taken from *Precious Magazine*, May-July, 1992

“He who was rich, for our sakes became poor.” In this profound statement the apostle is not specifically drawing attention to the life of humility our Lord lived here among men. Possibly that life could be summed up in our Lord’s own words, “the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head.” But it is well to remember that in the highest sense, amid His material poverty, He enjoyed a richness beyond all others—at all times He knew perfect communion with His Father, and one who knows that is rich indeed. No—the poverty of which Paul is speaking, and which he said was “for your sakes,” was His dread experience at Calvary, when, for the first time in His experience, even from eternity, there was a break between His God and Himself, which forced from His lips the cry, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46) That was the poverty—He was alone, as for our sakes He was “made sin.” (2 Cor. 5:21) He could bear being forsaken by His friends, although it caused Him sorrow, but this was something that was utterly devastating. Was it the anticipation of this which, Gethsemane caused Him to “sweat...as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground”? (Luke 22:44) What lies behind the words, He “endured the cross? (Heb. 12:2) How great is the mystery, and the cost of our redemption “that we should, by His poverty, become rich.”

But as we look at the context in which these tremendous words are found, from 1 Corinthians 8:1–15, we discover that the Spirit of God is, through Paul, urging his readers, fellow-Christians in the church at Corinth, to consider the needs of others, even the needy believers in Jerusalem. He speaks approvingly of the attitude of the Macedonian Christians to this problem, but is not impressed with the attitude of the Corinthians, who had talked much about giving, but were slow in doing it. It is worthy of note that in verse 8 the apostle disclaims any thought of “commanding” what they should do, and how they should give, apart from “the sincerity of your love.” Their giving was to be spontaneous, “not of necessity.”

He was not concerned with the amount given by the individuals—that was a matter between them and their Lord; he was concerned with the spirit in which it was given. How could he drive it home? The Spirit of God said, through him, “Look at Calvary, measure your giving by that.” The hymn writer caught the thought when he wrote words we so often sing, “Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.” How can I look at Calvary, and allow the Spirit of God to “teach me what it meaneth,” and then be stingy, or even unmoved when considering the needs of other believers? Can we really see our Lord giving all, and then cling tightly to *our* all? Let this mind be in you. *

Not Forsaking the Assembling of Ourselves Together

C. H. Mackintosh

There is a most deplorable amount of failure as to these two points. We sadly neglect the assembling of ourselves together for the simple reading of the Holy Scriptures. There does not seem to be sufficient attraction in the Word of God itself to bring us together. There is an unhealthy craving for other things. Human oratory, music, religious excitement of some kind or other seems needful to bring people together; anything and everything but the precious Word of God.” *

Biblical Perspective on

The Passion of the Christ

Brother Larry Price has written some thoughts on the controversial film, *The Passion of Christ*, which has many unbelievers, and believers in Christ talking about the crucifixion. Many evangelicals are encouraging Christians to see the film. Is this wise? Is the film faithful to the Word? Should Christians look to the world for truth? Brother Price’s article addresses these, and other questions. It can be seen at his website, lla@nmm.com, or a printed copy may be obtained by writing brother Price at 32742 Windy Oak St., Sorrento, FL 32776

The editor of Milk & Honey has also written an article concerning the film. You may obtain a copy by writing to Spread The Word at the address shown on page 4 or calling the telephone number shown on the same page.

Four Lessons About God's Word From Chapter Three, Verse Sixteen

Neil Fraser

(Adapted from an article that appeared in "Knowing the Scriptures", Jan.-Feb. 1936)

1. The Authorship of the Scriptures - *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*" (2 Tim. 3:16). The Scriptures are *Divine*. Here it is stated that they are given by the in-breathing of God. God breathed (Gen.2:7) and there came a living soul. Here He breathes again, and there comes the living word. As none can improve upon the human body, so none can improve upon the Bible. Both are indestructible by virtue of the breath of the Almighty.

2. The Ability of the Scriptures - *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood; which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. (2 Pet. 3:16)* The Scriptures are *deep*. We must recognize the fact that there are things "hard to be understood" — things beyond us. This is what we must expect, because they are divine, and because they are designed to engage the keenest minds in all ages. A single verse of Scripture has provoked volumes of literature.

3. The Accuracy of the Scriptures - *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ. (Gal. 3:16)* The Scriptures are *dependable*. Paul's argument turns upon the fact that the singular, and not the plural is used. The Bible is accurate in its number. In the following chapter Paul changes from the active to the passive voice, because it is the proper one to use. The Bible is accurate in its voices. The Lord Jesus confounded His foes by stressing the present tense, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." (Matt. 22:32) The Bible is accurate in its tenses. These three verses tell us, therefore, that the Scriptures are *profitable, profound, and precise*.

4. The Attitude Towards the Scriptures - *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16)* The Scriptures teach us our *duty*. Someone has said that we should shun the books we want to buy, and buy the books we want to shun. If a book does not appeal to us, it is because we are woefully and culpably ignorant of the subject with which it deals. If this is true, some of us ought to read some of these books in the Bible which we have neglected for a long time. *

Where Are They?

L.A. Anderson

(Adapted from an article that appeared in "Scripture Truth", Nov.-Dec., 1960)

Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men." (Ps. 12:1)

If the Psalmist allowed this cry to escape from his lips, how much more urgent and necessary is the cry in our day. Where indeed are the gifted men of God, that were serving the Lord a century or so ago? How well we could do with them today; and how we suffer for the lack of such in our midst.

The Psalmist, however, is not concerned with gifts, much as they are to be valued and appreciated, but with godly and faithful men. We may not be gifted as others, but what about godliness and faithfulness? These things are within the reach of the poorest and humblest of Christian men and women.

1. "The godly man ceaseth." His generation seems almost to have disappeared in this our day. Where are those godly brethren and sisters, whom some of us, who are older, remember or at least heard about in our youth? They have gone and their replacement is hard to find. They seem almost to have ceased. Help, Lord! Raise up more of Thy children, who shall carry on this godly line, and who shall live more closely to Thy beloved Son, the Lord Jesus.

2. "The faithful fail." Where are the faithful ones, the men and women, who are prepared to do what is right in the sight of God, cost what it may? Search among the children of men today, even among instructed saints, and see how comparatively few are to be found, prepared to suffer for their faithfulness, in this our easy-going age. They seem hardly to exist. Help, Lord!

But shall we despair because of the state of things around us, and even among ourselves? No, for "God is faithful," so rather let us be the more fervent, the more real, the more earnest, the more prayerful. Why should we not follow, by God's help, along the lines of the godly and faithful, who lived in days that are past? God is the same. He is unchanging. Is there a valid reason for us to sit down with folded hands, and give up? Cannot we be among the godly and faithful ones, even if others fall out by the way? In the very earliest days the Apostle Paul had to write to some, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you, that ye should not obey the truth?" (Gal. 5:7) Let us never forget that God is faithful, and therefore He can help each of us to be in that company who are "godly" and "faithful." *

